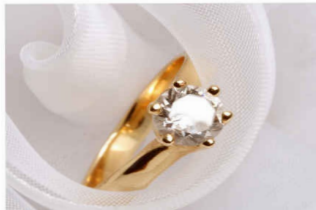




Wedding **PLANNING**

**THE ULTIMATE
DREAM WEDDING
PLANNER TO FIT
YOUR NEEDS
AND BUDGET**



Wedding Planning

The Ultimate Dream Wedding Planner to Fit Your Needs and Budget

(The Wedding Book)



© Copyright 2014 by PGDC - All rights reserved.

This document is geared towards providing exact and reliable information in regards to the topic and issue covered. The publication is sold with the idea that the publisher is not required to render accounting, officially permitted, or otherwise, qualified services. If advice is necessary, legal or professional, a practiced individual in the profession should be ordered.

- From a Declaration of Principles

which was accepted and approved equally by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and Associations.

In no way is it legal to reproduce, duplicate, or transmit any part of this document in either electronic means or in printed format. Recording of this publication is strictly prohibited and any storage of this document is not allowed unless with written permission from the publisher. All rights reserved.

The information provided herein is stated to be truthful and consistent, in that any liability, in terms of inattention

or otherwise, by any usage or abuse of any policies, processes, or directions contained within is the solitary and utter responsibility of the recipient reader. Under no circumstances will any legal responsibility or blame be held against the publisher for any reparation, damages, or monetary loss due to the information herein, either directly or indirectly.

Respective authors own all copyrights not held by the publisher.

The information herein is offered for informational purposes solely, and is universal as so. The presentation of the

information is without contract or any type of guarantee assurance.

The trademarks that are used are without any consent, and the publication of the trademark is without permission or backing by the trademark owner. All trademarks and brands within this book are for clarifying purposes only and are the owned by the owners themselves, not affiliated with this document.

Table Of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1](#)

Just Engaged: How to start planning your wedding from the very day of your engagement

[Chapter 2](#)

Long-term Preparations for the Wedding

[Chapter 3](#)

About To Wed: 11 Things you must have on your To-do List

[Chapter 4](#)

The Wedding: Last minute stuff to attend to before you tie the knot

[Chapter 5](#)

Just Wedded: Putting the Finishing Touches to your planning

[Chapter 6](#)

The Honeymoon: Simple ways to make sure you both enjoy it

[Conclusion](#)

Introduction

Every woman worth her salt knows that after the perfect proposal and after showing off her sparkly new rock to cooing, admiring friends, it's almost inevitable to be assailed with a wave of uncertainty and yes, belly-knotting panic as she starts to wonder silently: How do I plan the wedding?

If you have ever heard the expression, "All brides are beautiful," you would be forgiven for wondering how said brides manage to be so much as passably

attractive on their big day given the stress, hassles, angst and tears that usually precede weddings □ yes all weddings.

Tying the knot implies a permanence that in itself is vastly overwhelming and more often than not, a little bit scary which explains why planning the wedding often seems like more of an uphill task than it actually is.

Probably no wedding in the history of the world was conducted without some measure of planning, and yes, even flying to Vegas, Britney-style at a moment's notice is its own form of

planning, impulsive as it seems. Whether you are planning a military wedding, a destination wedding, a farm wedding, a garden wedding, or even a Hawaii wedding, there are some things you do not know about planning a wedding □ yes even if you plan for other people professionally. Every wedding is as unique as the bride and groom and families involved and no matter how well planned a wedding is, let me tell you right here and now that the one thing you can really be certain of when it comes to weddings is that the unexpected *will* happen; people *will* disappoint you; vendors may miss deadlines and bridesmaids may engage

in a catfight or two before your big day. Oh and just in case you were wondering, you *will* have a lovers' tiff or two with your groom before the wedding pulls through.

Now in planning a wedding, whether as a professional wedding planner or as a bride-to-be, several factors come into play and should be considered very carefully. These include your budget, your climate, the number of guests you could reasonably expect taking into consideration the bride and groom's popularity and acquaintances.

Planning a wedding may well be the

hardest task any bride would ever undertake and yet, the most interesting and invigorating especially if you have a proper guide to direct your steps as you walk from the drawing room of your plans, down the aisle and into your honeymoon to start your new life with Mr Right.

Chapter 1-

Just Engaged: How to start planning your wedding from the very day of your engagement

Getting engaged especially after a drawn-out, tumultuous courtship, may seem like the end of a long road; but don't breathe that sigh of relief just yet because you still have the walk down the aisle to contemplate.



The very first thing you should probably do after receiving ☐ and accepting ☐ a

marriage proposal is to decide on a date. At this point, it could be a tentative date or definite one but both parties have to agree on the date. Listen, because men may not be very much involved in wedding planning, it is very tempting to fix a date, hire a tux, and just point them in the direction of the church. Well here's an advice; don't! In fixing the date you absolutely *must* take the groom's schedule into consideration because let's face it, you wouldn't have much of a wedding to begin with if the groom is away on say, a missionary journey in another continent on the date you have chosen. You should know upfront that picking a date is not the easiest thing and

in fact, picking a definite date from the moment you are engaged is a definite no-no because you still have to decide on a venue and also consult the calendar of whatever venue you have chosen. However, when it comes to a date, it certainly wouldn't hurt for you to have a general idea of what season you would like (winter, summer, autumn, spring); or what major holidays you want to avoid conflicting with, etc. Oh and at this point, if you don't have a tentative timetable of all your scheduled planning activities, you are making a big mistake; and yes you need a timetable even if you have hired a wedding planner.



Another mistake most brides make is trying to fix a wedding date whilst taking into consideration everyone's schedule; and by this I mean everyone from Grandma, to the Minister, to the next-door-neighbour, to the choirmaster, to the friendly old lady down the street. That may seem very magnanimous but in truth every wedding is really about the couple and their schedule because I assure you if you try to take everyone else's schedule into consideration you would never have a clear date and you may as well give up all hope of being married. Just try to be reasonable about your choice of a date because undoubtedly, fixing your wedding for

say, Christmas morning would be an attendance catastrophe because most of your friends and family would undoubtedly be away on holidays.



The next thing you want to do at this point is decide on the type of wedding you want; casual and laid-back, formal black-tie affair, etc. For this, I suggest you look at the big picture of what you want your wedding to look like and not the minute details. Yes this is the point where you consider whether you want that fairy-tale wedding you have dreamed of since age six, or whether you want a classic wedding, a romantic affair, a vintage or rustic wedding, a beach wedding, you name it. Just picture the overall effect you have in mind and once you have that image in your mind, you can go from there. Yes at this point,

you could read books (like this one), magazines and blogs for inspiration and have a clearly formed idea of what you want before you work out your budget, dresses, bridesmaids, and so on. Most importantly though, do not forget that there will be two people starting a new life at that wedding so make certain to find out the sort of wedding the groom wants too. He may choose to be a good sport about it and indulge you but if *he* has always wanted a very top-scale society wedding whereas you want to get married barefoot in your parents' garden, don't you think the disparity is so huge that you should at least talk about it? Enough said.



WEDDING BUDGET

Speaking of a budget, this is the point where you match your expectations with your pocket, that of the groom, and of other contributors and cut out things that are too expensive to be practicable. For most weddings, parents love to chip in (even while taking note of how independent you are) and sometimes, some friends and relations could offer to help out with some money or other material assistance to cover the costs of the wedding. Now no matter how simple your wedding is, you may be sure that you would spend some money on it. So while you may be rich as Croesus, it's wise to let family members on the side

of the bride *and* the groom help out with some bills because hey, you don't want to hurt their feelings do you? of course you absolutely know that you cannot make any kind of budget without an actual written budget. You have to figure out how much you do have and then proceed to making other plans with that in mind. Oh and at this point I should probably point out that as magnificent as you want your marriage to be, you certainly do not want to exceed your budget because nothing makes a marriage hit the proverbial rocks or at least stormy waters faster than starting out in debt. So really watch your budget and if calculations are not your forte, as

is the affliction of most of us, feel free to ask or (as most brides do), command the assistance of that distant cousin who is also an accountant.

Now this may sound a bit unromantic but if you have been floating on cloud nine ever since your engagement, it's time to hit solid earth: you need to insure your ring against loss, theft and other form of destruction. Trust me, there are several other forms of destruction your sparkly could be subjected to, for instance: what's to keep a jealous ex-girlfriend of the groom from stealing it and running it over with her car? Okay that's way out there but you get my drift. You need to

insure you ring the same way you would insure your car and my money is on the fact that your ring may even be more expensive than said car. Tons of companies specializing in jewellery insurance would be more than happy to cover your ring and all you have to do really is just give them a call and set up the terms and voila; peace of mind. Indeed, some other companies not specializing in jewellery insurance at all also provide insurance covers for expensive engagement rings but often there is a catch: they can give you a specified amount of money in the event of a loss but they absolutely cannot replace your ring unlike the insurance

companies that specialize in jewellery insurance. It's really up to you what package you favour. Come on, as stressful as planning a wedding is, you don't want to have to watch your fingers like a hawk every second for fear of losing your ring do you?

Plan an engagement party at this point to tell your friends and family that you are about to walk down the aisle and also create a meeting ground between your prospective groom and other friends and family of yours who haven't had a chance to meet him; it's also a wonderful opportunity for you to meet old friends of your groom and hear all the anecdotes

you have never heard *before* you walk down the aisle. Now what most people overlook is the fact that the engagement party is a fertile, shopping ground for a wedding party, and by this I mean groomsmen and bridesmaids. At an engagement party, you could get a better idea of who is committed enough to attend your wedding and help add colour to it because nine out of ten people who attend your engagement party would ordinarily attend your wedding. This would be a good time to look around at all the strapping young men and beautiful young women and decide on who you want in your train and then approach them and ask. Before you go galloping

across the room, keep in mind that if you are in the market for a train, you generally want people with similar physical build because it is a heck of a lot easier that way. At this point though, most people would want to know your date before they give you an answer so don't swan off in a huff if you get a lot of maybes especially if you haven't fixed your date yet. Simply tell them you are looking at say, spring, but nothing definite yet. Also tell them that if they are open to the idea, you would get back to them as soon as you have a definite date. See? Gracious and reasonable, not Bridezilla on a roll!

Now for the most important aspect, the moment of truth: can you plan this wedding yourself or do you need to hire a wedding planner? One of the worst myths I ever heard about weddings was that every bride needs to plan her wedding because it shows she put a lot of thought into it and doubles as a sign of how much she loves her groom. I almost split my sides laughing at that one. If you are one of those people who work twenty hours a day, then unless you look forward to having a breakdown, I suggest you let someone else handle the preparations for your wedding. You should know though that even if you hire a wedding planner, you will have to

work very closely with the person otherwise, you could walk down the aisle on your wedding day and the only thing that would look anywhere like your thoughts is your groom; yes, you would think you walked into someone else's wedding by accident and trust me that is not a good feeling.

Chapter 2-

Long-term Preparations for the Wedding



So now you have left the just engaged mode and began to actively prepare for your wedding. There are a few preparation points you absolutely must take into consideration *at* this time

unless of course you don't mind botching up your plans. And for your own peace of mind, whether you hired a wedding consultant full-time or part-time, you should at least be a bit involved in the process. Here are the main things you should attend to at this stage:

- 1. A venue and a date:**



These two may be more intertwined than you realise. A wedding venue generally sets the tone for the rest of the wedding: I mean you would certainly look out of place at a beach wedding clad in *haute couture* Vera Wang creation, spattered with hand stitched pearls. On the other hand, if you choose to tie the knot at say, the Villard Mansion at the New York Palace Hotel or the Peninsula's Salon de Ning, you would look severely under-dressed in a simple white frock. Most top venues are booked months and sometimes years in advance, and so the moment you are past the engagement stage, you must

actively begin to search for a place to tie the knot; keeping in mind your budget of course, which is why we had you prepare that at the 'Just engaged stage'. For this, you absolutely must take into consideration the type of wedding you have envisaged and also the available dates at each venue. Once you have a definite venue and date, you can comfortably continue with other aspects of your planning. Again, no matter how uninterested the groom may seem, do try to find out where his head is at so you can avoid the inevitable clash when he voices a preference for a venue that serves

beer instead of fine wine and trout instead of *coq au vin*. Another important determinant is your location and the weather conditions. In rainy seasons, you are better off having your wedding and reception indoors rather than outside and during a heat wave, your guests will definitely prefer outdoors. Some climates are also somewhat colder than others and so if you live in very cold places, you might want to reconsider your choice of an open-air wedding.

2. Guest list



Wedding Guest List Manager

Start
here

Have you talked to this
person in the last year?

Yes ↓

No ↓

Do you spend time with
them outside of work?

Yes ↓

No ↓

Is it someone you
would normally
buy dinner for?

Yes ↓

No →

Will they make
your wedding
more fun?

Yes ↓

No →

You're
invited!!



Do you have a close
personal/family
connection with this person?

Friend ↓

Family ↓

Do they know your
partner's name?

No →

Yes ↓

Will they make
your wedding
more fun?

No →

Yes ↓

Is it someone
your parents would
want there?

Yes →

No ↓

Are your
parents paying
for the wedding?

Yes →

No →

Eliminated!



Eliminated!



The guest list should be reasonably compiled at this point and you have to make certain to include friends, co-workers, and acquaintances of the bride and groom *and* sometimes those of the parents of the couple. Now you should understand that no guest list is cast in stone and make reasonable allowances for gatecrashers because unless you are Katherine getting married to Prince William, you *will* have gatecrashers. Leave your guest list open-ended for now as some RSVPs may never come, some may come in late, and remember the gatecrashers. Some

brides, working alone or with wedding planners, are often tempted to ‘forget’ some of the groom’s friends and family who are not on the list of their personal favourites. While I can understand the temptation to ‘forget’ to invite his crazy Auntie Sally because the old harridan once yelled across the room that your hair was too blond, I would suggest that you invite her anyway unless you want to have your first row as a married couple on the dance floor in full view of all your guests.

And yes, picking a guest list goes hand in hand with a seating chart which means you have to plan how to

seat your guests. The RSVPs are guaranteed to help but most importantly, once you have a clear idea of the venue and what it is going to look like, you would be better able to plan.

3. Pick a dress



Yes I can just see you clapping your hands in glee as we get to what you consider the ‘good stuff’; well you are not alone as thousands of brides are a lot more excited by, and interested in their dress than in anything else. Wedding dresses are pretty cool but surprisingly hard to find. I suggest you start off by browsing online sites to find out the current trend vis-a-vis your personal preferences. You could also get into the habit of collecting photos of wedding dresses you like as that makes it much easier for you to have an idea of your preference and it makes shopping for the dress easier

for you in the end. Some people start to keep scrapbooks of wedding gowns from as early as childhood but more often than not, the clothes that were considered in vogue during your tender years would probably be out of fashion by now. After browsing several sites, you could also look at some magazines and then, go window shopping with your friends. Note, not all friends should be invited on this expedition and *never* buy the first thing you see because this is one fashion statement of yours that would be scrutinized repeatedly by generations. Window shopping for a week or two may be a

perfect idea because as much as you hate traipsing down the busy streets with the weather at extreme temperatures (whether warm or chilly) the fact remains that exploring different stores and design outfits gives you a better idea of what to expect and also how much to actually set aside. Several brides I know who actually picked their gowns at the very first designer outfit they entered complained later that the price had been grossly inflated and sadly they only got to know that after the purchase ☹ and of course few outfits have a return policy on wedding gowns.

In picking your wedding dress there are a lot of factors to consider: long or short, colour, texture, price, etc. Just in case you didn't know and at the risk of stating the obvious, wedding dresses do not absolutely have to be white these days; you could decide to wear some other colour which is a good idea when you consider that you want originality, vivacious appeal and maybe just to stand out from the crowd. Besides, the traditional white does not look very good on people with pale complexions and often gives them a sort of washed-out look

which is very far off from what every bride wants. So feel free to pick coloured wedding gowns. Some brides have also chosen to rent wedding gowns or use those of their relations. Most people grimace at the thought, but it's really about practicality: what's the use of impoverishing yourself to buy a gown you may never ever wear again if you can't afford it? Conversely, some people prefer to choose wedding gowns that are so simple that they can be worn again after the wedding and that's a very good idea if you are on a budget; it's like two for the price of one.

Of course at the point of picking your wedding gown, you should also be picking out your bridesmaids dresses unless of course you decide that you don't need bridesmaids. Some brides, in an effort to outshine the bridesmaids (because hey, it's the bride's day),

Your budget must be strictly adhered to, like it or not. I mean if your wedding gown looks like something for a medieval Princess and is the price equivalent, you wouldn't have much of a fun wedding if there are no refreshments to feed your guests

because you are short of funds.

4. Book your vendors



Yes this is the point where you pick your florists, a band, videographer, and a photographer. And in case you

think this is a walk in the park, you should know that most top photographers are often booked solid an entire year in advance ☐ yes, I mean a full calendar year! For your photographer, you might want to come up with a ‘shot list’ and share it with your photographer; as much as you think you know what you are about, he/she is the photographer and as such, the professional. Trust me, their input will be invaluable and completely important. Don’t forget to book your officiant while you are at it.

You might also want to discuss with a caterer especially if your venue is not

one that offers such services. Even if your venue does provide such services, it is a good idea to meet with those in charge and decide on what you want to be served at this point in your preparations. From finger-foods to buffet services, you should have a definite say on what goes on the menu and communicate that to whoever is providing catering services. Be sure to also verify that what you have ordered is covered by your budget. The recent trends in modern weddings to serve only finger foods and fine wine, especially when the couple are on a tight budget. With plenty of dancing

and no chairs for seating at all, your guests would hardly notice that the menu is strictly finger foods and wine.

Most brides and wedding planners prefer to plan their weddings a full year or at least six months before the day and if so, then right after the post-engagement phase, you should be scooping up photographers and a band and florists with as much speed as you can muster. Some people think it's cheaper to hire free service such as family members or friends, but unless you want efficiency at your wedding to be a matter of luck, then I

suggest you include vendors in your budget rather than sloughing the job off to familiar persons who are guaranteed to take it not so seriously because they know you.

5. Make your announcements



Now your engagement party already did that for you, but just in case you are one of those people who didn't

have an engagement party you should make announcements at this point. Even if you did have an engagement party, you need to remind people because let's face it, as important as you like to think you are, they all have busy, busy, lives and your date may just slip through the cracks. Besides, I'm willing to bet that when you had your engagement party you didn't have a definite date in mind yet. Right? Printing your Save the Dates at this point is a good idea, but you may want to hold off on distributing it if you don't want people to forget before that date. Also, most people set up websites to

help friends and family track the progress of the preparations for the wedding and do not forget to send the link to invitees. Several brides love to create personal page through free providers like the weddingchannel.com and I would recommend that, especially if you are on a budget. And for crying out loud, make good use of Social Media to let people know about your wedding; it's like constant advertising and the best part is that it's free. I know brides who didn't want the hassles (and yes I mean financial implications) of setting up a website and chose instead to patronize free

blogs whilst posting the links all over their facebook and other social media sites; the traffic was off the charts. See? Free advertising like I said.

Chapter 3-

About To Wed: 11 Things
you must have on your To-
do List



At this point, most brides are concerned with last minute preparations like

beauty, accessories, hall decorations, rehearsals, makeup and so many other tiny little details that may seem little but if ignored, can actually drive you crazy. Here are the details you should be finalizing about a month or two to the wedding:

1. Makeup



Cosmetologists may come and go,

but the truth of how you looked on your wedding day will stay with you forever courtesy the videos and pictures; and since everyone lately has a smartphone in their custody, that may be a lot of pictures and videos. It's often tempting to look so incredibly hot on your wedding day that your groom would swallow his tongue in admiration and because of this, most brides tend to go so far over the top that they end up looking nothing like the woman the groom fell in love with. For your wedding day make-up, the first rule of thumb is; less is more! Makeup by all means, but do not

overdo it; and it is common to have a sample of your makeup against the day of your wedding. Most brides prefer to have their makeup artists make them up months before the wedding exactly as they would if that were the wedding day so they can criticize the makeup or approve of it to avoid any nasty surprises on the last day. And I'm sure you already knew this, but I suggest you avoid new makeup products like the plague because the last thing you want is to break out in an allergic reaction on your big day. And yes, even if your cosmetologist insists that the new item of makeup you

have never tried is the best thing since sliced bread, put your feet down and insist coz hey, it's your face and your wedding.

Most brides have discovered (when it was too late unfortunately) that for weddings, you tend to be very active and in high demand and because of that, their makeup tends to smudge easily or smear. Believe it or not, your wedding day is one day when you want to adopt makeup colours in cool tones and also make certain they are light and won't smear. If you are ordinarily given to heavy makeup, then by all

means, indulge yourself but if this is not your usual style, then please do not try it now.

2. Hair



We have all heard the age-old cliché that all brides are beautiful but when a bride is having a bad hair day on the day of her wedding it does tend to leave us all more than a little short of words. Next to your wedding gown, your hair is the most visible and eye-catching part of your ensemble as you stroll down the aisle. Whether you decide to use short or long hair, your hairdresser would probably appreciate it if you have pictures of your dream hairstyle in tow. Most brides go for curly, romantic, hairstyles that make them look like princesses and frankly that hairstyle

does more than a little for the overall appearance. However, whatever the hairstyle you may choose, make certain it matches *and* flatters the shape of your face because believe me, there are few things tackier than a bride who doesn't know what looks good on her because it seems you didn't put any thoughts to planning your wedding at all. If you have an oval or square-shaped face, short wavy hairdos look sassy, fun, and vibrant. Long waves are great with angular faces, oval faces and (depending on the style) round faces. the deep side-swept bangs works in just about every facial bone structure

and best of all, it gives you that fresh, unspoilt look common with youth.



Even short funky bangs such as this one work wonderfully with round or oval faces especially since they create a slimming effect. Whatever you do decide though, do not be one of those brides who have worn ponytails all their lives only to appear on their wedding day with ludicrously big hair worthy of the sixties; that would give everyone pause.

If you are on a budget, try to find a hairstylist who isn't too expensive by checking online and even asking neighbours. A popular trick for

cutting the costs of hair and makeup for your wedding is to subscribe to the services of a beautician that provides both services. Since you require their services for two different preparations, they are more likely to give you a discount; plus it totally saves you the stress of running helter-skelter on your wedding day. But whatever you do, make certain whoever you patronize really does know what she's about. In fact, visit your beautician with trusted, fashionable friends and family and also take pictures of her work so you can look at them later and decide definitely for yourself if it suits you.

and if you find that you are the only one in the room who doesn't like the hair or makeup, go right ahead and put your foot down because after all, it's going to be you walking down the aisle and feeling anything but gorgeous and we can't have that now can we?

5. **Save the Date**

At this point you should have definite RSVPs because you must have distributed your Save the Dates. Make certain you get a comprehensive chart of your wedding guests and if you have decided to use a planner, make certain to provide

him/her with the list of your guests at this point. Seating sounds like the simplest thing in the world, but sometimes, you may be better off with a little help in the form of a digital seating chart like www.allseated.com or www.tablerrr.com. With these sites, you could drag and drop guests' names to different tables and you could easily use colour codes to mark out guest into groups like groom's family, bride's friends, etc. now there is this important tidbit most planners do not tell brides because they don't want to upset them but every planner knows, you should reserve at least 20 seats for wedding crashers; yes I can

just see you grimace in distaste, but in truth in the end it is much tidier than having to drag uncooperative persons from your wedding reception whilst creating an unnecessary scene. Conversely, most people enforce the use of IVs into their wedding halls and you could too, but that's the thing about gatecrashers: they almost always find a way in. Some guests will arrive from out of town so be sure to make arrangements for accommodations for them.

1. Make it Legal and write your vows



Please don't tell me you haven't thought of a marriage license at this

point. In fact some people try to get it as soon as they are engaged and if anyone told you that you have to wait until the very last minute to get it, they were wrong. In truth, the marriage license is only good for a short period of time so if you were thinking of getting it three years to the wedding, don't! At this stage though, you should be making final preparations for your wedding so be sure to make enquiries at City hall to find out how much it would cost and also the necessary documents and procedures for getting the license. Now, you should also have started on your vows at this point and in fact,

you should be rounding up right about now. Some people find it hard to write their vows but in truth, all you have to do is think of all the qualities you admire about your significant other, and *voila!*

5. Hall decorations and music



Most brides have colour combinations they favour and that's

really no surprise when you consider the fact that there are some colours that would clash horribly if there is no planning whatsoever. Yes, I know clash is the new black, but trust me, you don't want an 'uncoordinated clash' at your wedding! Some colours are more popular choices than others when it comes to weddings and most times, the popular colour choices are determined by season. The first rule though is: never limit yourself. For instance, most people frown at black for weddings, thinking they are better for funerals. I once organized a wedding where the bride was adamant on a completely black theme

with everything from her wedding gown to her bridesmaids', to the hall decorations. I finally convinced her to throw in a mix of bold colours like burnt orange and gold; the overall result was so startling and powerful that I got 7 new clients from that wedding alone!

5. Music



Music goes hand in hand with hall decorations and the music you choose

for your wedding and after-party plays a huge role in creating the ambience or atmosphere you desire. Some people are tone deaf no doubt, but even if you are the most talented DJ of all times, you might still want an objective opinion on the music you have chosen for your big day; and it is better if said opinion comes from an expert.

7. Flowers and cake



SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER

There are few things as powerful and aesthetically beautiful as strolling down an aisle lined with beautiful and exotic flowers in time to a wedding march. Flowers are an absolute must-have for everything from your wedding to the reception or after-party and they give any room its feel and ambience. Flowers do wonders for any room, and you could coordinate them by making their colours match your other wedding colours. This is where your florist comes in and yes even if you are a florist *do not* arrange the flowers for yourself because you are too close to

it too be objective and you run a very big risk of going over the top. Also insist on seeing a finished version of your cake before the day so you don't get any surprise appearance.

3. **Relax ☐ literally.**



You wouldn't be the typical bride if your nerves were not all over the place at this point. You should be getting massages and spa treatments very frequently some months to your

weddings ☐ yes even despite your tight budget. Yes, I know it seems out of left-wing but in truth, this is the period when all your nerves are stretched to breaking point, you are tearing up at the least provocation and you have all the patience of a bear with a sore paw. Bridezilla wasn't born in a day and while you are as excited as a cat on steroids about your wedding, you need to take some time off from your fixation with your wedding and look around. The best thing you can do for yourself is try not to get so sucked up into planning your wedding that you become this person your groom has to

give a wide berth as he wonders what possessed him to propose. So go ahead, get in a seaweed wrap every now and then and try to get yourself to relax and let go of all that built-up tension.

1. Rehearsals



Rehearsals are the next step in the about to wed phase of your preparations. People love to plan rehearsals as well as to make the necessary preparations for them. You

should make every effort to involve friends and family in the plans for your rehearsals and also make certain that you do not try to go it alone because planning a rehearsal and also a wedding for the very next day will definitely take its toll and have you looking like what the cat ate *and* threw up just in time for your wedding so you might want to sit out the preparations for your wedding rehearsals and let someone else take the initiative. Though, you must not forget to present bridesmaids gifts at your rehearsal dinner because you want your bridesmaids happy and cheerful on your big day.

0. Bridesmaids



Most brides are guilty of this one; they get so wrapped up in the frenzy of the preparation that they forget to check on their bridesmaids the week before the wedding. Now I know you think your bridal team is made up of super-humans but in truth, are only operating with mere mortals. What if one of them falls ill or one breaks a leg (heaven forbid) or one just changes her mind? These little details can drive you crazy if you start obsessing over them so you should try as much as possible to speak to them occasionally in the week preceding the wedding to avoid any unpleasant

surprises. You should also make certain to try on your wedding gown and accessories at this point too and make your bridesmaids do the same so any last-minute alterations can be taken care of well before your stroll down the aisle. Yes go ahead and send them reminders if need be because they may forget or overlook the importance. Oh and no matter what you do; *do not* yell at your bridesmaids. They may be called that but trust me they are *not* your maids!

1. Timeline

A GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR WEDDING AND STAYING ON TRACK!

9-12+ MONTHS BEFORE

- Start a wedding folder or Pinterest board
- Work out your budget
- Pick your wedding party
- Start planning the guest list
- Hire a wedding planner
- Reserve your date and venues
- Book your officiant
- Research vendors

8 MONTHS BEFORE

- Hire your photographer and videographer
- Book your band or DJ
- Meet with your preferred caterers
- Purchase your dress
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests
- Start your wedding registry

6-7 MONTHS BEFORE

- Book your invitation designer and/or calligrapher
- Start researching honeymoon destinations
- Shop for bridesmaid dresses
- Send save-the-dates (if not sooner)
- Book your florist
- Arrange transportation for yourselves and guests

4 - 5 MONTHS BEFORE

- Book the rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venues
- Ensure that your invitations are on track
- Meet with your baker
- Start your hair and makeup trials
- Start choosing your playlists

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Finalize menu and flowers
- Order Favors
- Choose readings and readers
- Purchase rings

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Check-in with all vendors for updates
- Start a shot list for your photographer
- Review playlist with band or DJ
- Send out invitations (8 weeks before the wedding)

1 MONTHS BEFORE

- Start recording RSVPs
- Get your marriage license
- Mail rehearsal-dinner invitations
- Have your last dress fitting
- Start seating arrangements
- Purchase bridesmaids' gifts

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Confirm arrival times with vendors
- Send a timeline to the bridal party
- Pick up your dress
- Check-in with the photographer and go over shot list
- Break in your shoes!
- Send a finalized guest list to caterer and venue
- Pack for your honeymoon

This one is completely necessary if you want everything at your wedding to move like a well-oiled machine. All your vendors and indeed everyone else have to be on a strict timeline and you have to oversee and enforce it, wedding planner or no. You should also work to determine timing and logistics to avoid last minute mishaps or delays that could ruin everything. Some planners also find it useful to prepare a timeline for paying off vendors and also meeting other expenses incurred in the act of wedding planning. You could draw up a spreadsheet and use it to make a

schedule of outstanding payments, tips and due dates on payments; it will take a huge weight off your neck if you have the figures at your fingertips.

2. Pack up your belongings



No I don't mean pack up and leave town, but in case you haven't heard, most brides tend to move in with their grooms. Now even while you may want to retain your tenuous hold on

your independence until the final I dos, it certainly doesn't hurt to box off all your stuff in the week before your wedding. Here's why; at this point you are more likely than not, going to be extremely busy and immediately after the wedding and chances are, you will be travelling almost immediately for your honeymoon. So it means you have to get someone else to oversee the move. To make it easier for yourself and your helpers, you need to box up your clothes, utensils, shoes, books and in fact just about everything you own (except perhaps your car). It would be that much easier for them to

transport these things and make certain to label each carton after sealing so they know what is fragile and what isn't. I advise that you let family members help with the move as they are infinitely more trustworthy with your personal possessions than strangers would be.

Chapter 4

The Wedding: Last minute stuff to attend to before you tie the knot



Ding, ding, ding, ding! The big day is finally here and I can just imagine your level of excitement and yes, nerves; and that applies whether you are the bride or an independent wedding planner. The wedding day often seems like a culmination of months and months of

hard-work and planning and in reality, that's what it actually is.

There are a few things you should keep your eyes peeled for on your wedding day and if you are the bride, it may be time to delegate because as much as you want to control every single moment of your wedding, you can't possibly say your vows at the same time as you seat your guests. So the first rule for your wedding day is: delegate.

Here are some things to do on your wedding day though, some by yourself and some others by proxy:

1. Check your wedding dress



With most brides, this is often an almost automatic action on the morning of the wedding and you should do the same too. Check the fitting, the ironing, and the steaming of your wedding gown again but make certain your hands are cleaner

than they have ever been. And no, despite how tempting it is, do not try it on yet, especially since you must have already done so a day or two before.

2. Pack an emergency kit



No I don't mean first-aid stuff, that's what you have 911 for. I mean you should have a kit already packed with makeup, spray deodorant, bobby pins, band-aids, a dab of your favourite perfume, scissors, lipstick, aspirin (yeah you won't believe how many brides and bridesmaids have raging headaches at weddings), handkerchiefs, hand lotion, breath mints, hairbrush, and even a sewing kit. You won't believe how tiny little things like a split hem can send an entire bridal train into a tizzy and ruin your mood so terribly that you may even be hard put to smile while

strolling down the aisle.

3. **Early to bed, early to rise**



Have you ever heard the expression,

‘Lose an hour and you will be looking for it all day?’ Well that is truer of weddings than of anything else. You have to make certain to go to bed early, yes despite the joys of the rehearsal night, and also try to wake up early because the last thing you want to do is be late to your own wedding. It is considered fashionable for the bride to be late, but in truth, as with most things weddings, you want to be a bit late as planned and not so late that people start to wonder if the poor groom has been stood up at the altar.

4. Gifts



Put someone in charge of receiving gifts on behalf of yourself and your groom. In fact, I once saw a wedding where thank-you cards were prepared beforehand and as the gifts

for the couple were received, a calligrapher simply stencilled in the names of the recipients. The appreciation cards were all sent out the very next day. Note though that you want to thank everyone who was at your wedding and not just the guests. Now people generally dispense 'favours' at their own weddings too but since you will be tied up in the little business of exchanging favours you would be better off getting someone to dispense party favours for you.

5. You need clothes to wear before the wedding



Yes, that's what I said. Can you just picture the state of your wedding gown by the time your hairstylist and cosmetologist are done? Yep, messed

up and the last thing you need is a wedding gown crisis, even if you are one of those neurotic brides who order *two* wedding gowns, just in case they spill something on one!

Part of the planning on your wedding day should include planning on what you want to wear while preparing and no you don't want to wear your most ragged pyjamas because just in case you didn't know, everyone from your mum, to your friends, to the photographer and videographer will be taking pictures of you from the moment your legs hit the floor on the morning of your wedding.

**6. Hand over you cell phone to your
maid of honour**



Yes most people do not call brides on their wedding days but what about those poor souls who lose directions and feel compelled to call you and ask? Your maid of honour can answer those calls and give them guidance but be sure to emphasize that she puts your phone on vibration because the last thing you need is your phone belting out a rendition of Rihanna's Unfaithful (your ringtone that is) right in the middle of the ceremony.

7. Be romantic



This is the one day that signals the rest of your life together, so as much as you want all attention to be focused on you, make certain to slip

the Best-man a love note to hand to your groom just before the wedding. Here's why: with his senses all heightened from all that nervous energy, and excitement, he will read, treasure and remember ever one of those words for a long time to come. But this is not an invitation to start waxing poetic with five pages of write up; a line or two should suffice nicely. For instance, one friend of mine wrote at her wedding, "Can't wait to show you what I have on, underneath Alex." Imagine Alex's state of mind for the rest of the day; yeah you guessed right, he was twice as eager for their wedding night.

8. Flowers



Flowers are a vital part of any

wedding, but since you already hired a florist long before now, I am willing to bet you know that. Their sheer colour and beauty alone can bring smiles to the most serious faces; whether they are red, blue, white, pink, yellow or whatever colour, they blend perfectly with just about every colour coordination you could choose. Check your bouquet for freshness and feel free to take fun pictures with your bouquet alone in your room even before you are dressed □ the silliness alone will make you happy and relaxed in time for your wedding. Catching the bridal bouquet is also an important part of

the occasion and while you may not exactly aim for a particular person since you are going to be throwing it over your shoulder anyway, you could still make it a lot of fun though with cute antics. Though, you might want to steal a petal from the bouquet as a keepsake or souvenir and you can totally flatten it later in a scrapbook or picture album. Yes it's your wedding, which means you should have tons of fun and laughter to take with you along the path of memories.

9. Honour tradition



Yes it may seem like sentimental crap, but in truth, there is really nothing wrong with having something

old, something new, and something borrowed in your retinue as you stroll down the aisle. For most Southern brides, weddings are all about traditions, but some other people prefer ultra-modern. Whatever your style may be, feel free to indulge that curious side of yourself by grabbing one of each as you prepare to walk the walk.

10. Walk the walk



Yes I know you are excited to stroll down that aisle to meet that special man waiting patiently for you, but even if you are one of those

hyperactive types prone to galloping to every point, this is one day when the more sedate pace is your friend. Your wedding shoes, if they are anything like the usual, are feminine, and built for elegant movement not for energetic hikes so be sure to coordinate your steps and walk down that aisle like the true princess you are. Besides, more often than not, the wedding dress has a long flowing train, unless of course you are one of those new-age brides who prefer to go with the trend and use short wedding dresses. Well either way, the last thing we need is for the bride to step on her dress and go crashing

on her face in full view of the groom
and all the wedding guests so yes,
watch your step.

Chapter 5

Just Wedded: Putting the Finishing Touches to your planning



Yes I can just see your eyes widening in horror, but unfortunately for you, the wedding planning does not end with the exchange of I dos, rings and throwing of rice! In fact, most top wedding planners will tell you that after the wedding is the most vital period of time when you have to bring all the months of planning, hardwork, and preparation to bear because now you have to entertain your guests and celebrate your union with friends and family for the very first time. So even though you were already thinking to skip the reception and send everybody on their merry way with empty stomachs and a mere thank you, don't.

Here are a list of things that should be included in your plan for just after the wedding:

- 1. Verify your ride**



Immediately after a wedding, most couples often have a designated get-away car to transport them from the wedding venue to the after wedding party or the airport. Whatever may be your destination, this is one time when you want to stick beside your groom like glue so you don't get into say separate vehicles and get transported to different destinations (you won't believe how often this happens or how quickly it throws a wrench in honeymoon plans). So unless your plan is to pull a Blair Waldorf, I suggest you stick close to your Prince Louis as soon as you leave the altar until you are both

safely in your designated ride.

2. Confirm reservations:



Most couples want to spend their

honeymoon anywhere but at home, and no wonder when you consider the peace and quiet and the romantic euphoria that awaits couples away from their homes and well-meaning visitors. Well on the chance that you have planned a honeymoon for right after your wedding, as soon as you are done from your wedding, be sure to call and confirm your reservations. On second thoughts, you may be too excited from your recent wedding that your speech is likely to be so garbled that almost no one understands you. The bridesmaid can handle this little detail for you. Simply get her to call your hotel and confirm that your suite or room has

been reserved still; and also verify your flight plans again. Also, if you have subscribed to say a car hire service, you might want to give them a call as a reminder too. Yes they are all professionals, but you wouldn't want to put their humanity to the test especially when it could mean that you would end up being disappointed or worse, stranded.

3. Reception



Some refer to this as the after wedding party and of course you must have put in months of planning into this. Some newlyweds often opt

for a new set of clothes for the after wedding party and if so, the bride may need to have her hair rearranged and her makeup freshened after the wedding party. Don't forget to invite your vendors to join in the celebration though, because after all, they helped make things happen. You might also want to check with your band once more to make certain they have the songs your requested in perfect order. Enjoy the wedding party because it is really in honour of the bride and groom and be sure to savour the cutting of the cake. Speaking of cake, make certain to instruct the catering staff to take off the top tier of the cake and box it up

in a portable manner. You could hand off that top tier to your mum to chill in the refrigerator or as some couples love to do, you could take it with you on your honeymoon. Now while you are enjoying the party, do try to go easy on the alcohol because it *is* your party which means everyone will be watching you. Besides, in the end, there are few things tackier than a sloshed, barfing, bride or groom so abstain as much as possible.

4. Credit cards and cash



Remember you are going away for
your honeymoon, the last thing you

want is to be strapped for cash. So double-check that you have packed up your credit card and also make certain that you have included some cash because you never know where you would find yourself or what could arise.

5. Digital memories



Yes I mean the photographers and videographers. You must have

already made plans with them on when and where to take pictures and videos, but you especially want them on hand for the wedding itself and yes, the after wedding party. Take pictures with friends and relations using the pre-arranged lists and order of photography.

6. Hand over your wedding gown to be cleaned

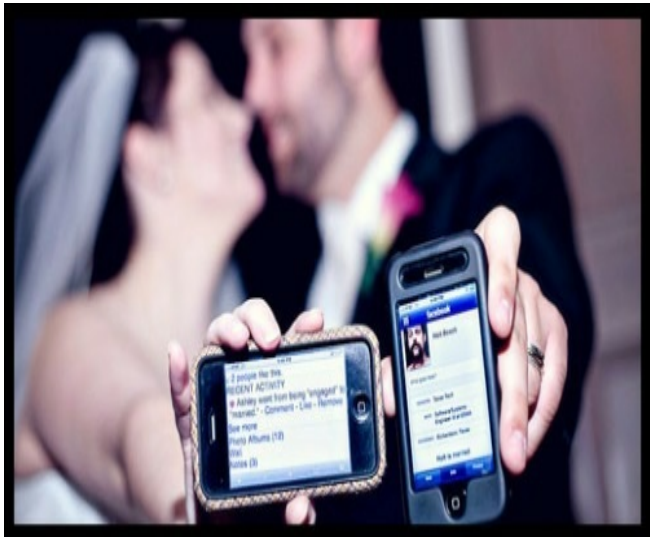


Yes I know wearing that gown made you so happy that you are half-convinced you want to be buried in it. But in truth, you need to take it off after the wedding and have a professional (preferably a person recommended by the couturier who

made your gown) clean the gown for you. A skilled preservationist can help you take care of any stains and store it in a dark, dry place until you decide what you want to do with it. Your best bet though is handing it over to your mother of maid of honour for onward transfer to your cleaner because most wedding dresses are made of delicate fabrics and it just wouldn't do at all to let the stains remain until whenever you return from your honeymoon. Even if you do decide that you want to sell off your wedding gown or donate it to say, the Salvation Army, make certain to give it out to be cleaned anyway. And if you are working on a

budget, be sure to stress to your couturier that while you are looking for good quality you do not want something expensive. Selling your gown is actually not a bad idea if you are not overly attached to it, sentimentally. Make certain to browse online stores and sites for places to sell your wedding gown (but kindly leave the wheeling and dealing until *after* your honeymoon).

7. Social media



Yes this is one time when you need to update your social status and what better way than on facebook, twitter, pinterest and every other social media sites you favour? Get the word

out and watch yourself become even happier than you thought possible as the congratulations and good wishes continue to pour in.

8. Send out Thank you Cards



Yes remember those thank you cards I had you prepare in advance? Well now would be a good time to send them out. Since the chances of you being around immediately after your wedding are probably slim to none, you should make certain to delegate someone to send out the Thank you cards and be sure to tip your vendors or get someone to do it for sure.

9. Check with your movers



Remember what I said about moving? Well this is the point where you need to check with your movers and since you are on a budget, use family members to move your personal possessions. For the stuff you won't be needing in your new home (like

that ugly futon you bought when you were backpacking through Europe) you could do a yard sale and get rid of them because hey, you need all the cash you can get at this point. And since you would most likely be out of town, you could suspend the said sale until you return.

10. Change your details



Now this may not be right away but you might want to stencil it down somewhere: you need to change your social security card (fill out the application on ssa.gov), and also get

a new license with your new surname on it. You could also change your name on your bank accounts and with other organizations once you have gotten the necessary change on your driver's licence and your social security card. Now you don't necessarily have to do these right away as they may take a little while but keep them in mind for when you return from your honeymoon trip.

Chapter 6

The Honeymoon: Simple ways to make sure you both enjoy it



Yes we all hope our honeymoon will be as hot as this picture too but there are some things you could do to make it just as hot and infinitely hotter:

1. Arrive early for your reservation



Yes that also means you can't enjoy the after wedding party until the wee hours of the morning with your guests despite how much you want to.

Listen there is nothing worse than missing your flight and arriving late and dog tired. You will be too tired to do anything besides smile at your new spouse and nod off, and that is not a very auspicious beginning to your life together as I am sure you would agree. So you want to dodge as many delays as you can.

2. Lingerie



Even if your groom claims to be the last monk alive, please do not take him at his word: don your lingerie. Come on even if you have lived all your life wearing good-girl cotton underwear, you must have landed at

least one lingerie at your bachelorette party. This is the time to pull your lacy bag of tricks out of the bag and wow him at least for your first time together as man and wife. It's a memory you will both cherish. And it may seem off the cuff for wedding planning, but hey, this is the honeymoon phase so it's totally appropriate.

3. Road trips



Yes, road trips, also known as sight-seeing are very important at this time. Hey you guys should be relaxing and unwinding with each other for company as you take in the sights. No you don't have to be holed up in a

hotel suite. Make certain you have all the fun you can and also take enough pictures to last you a lifetime. Trust me, down the long road of marriage when you guys fight (as you inevitably will), those pictures taken when you were so happy on your honeymoon may help make you feel just a little better.

- 4. Take time out to call your families and say thank you**



It's very easy to omit families from thank you lists but that is often a big mistake because while they love you

go all to pieces they are still very much human and want to feel appreciated too so make certain to let them know you appreciate all the love, caring and time, that went into planning your wedding and making it happen. And if you are in a particularly exotic location, you could also send them postcards. Note I said 'families'. Yes whether your mother-in-law and yourself see eye-to-eye or not, you should also give her a shout and say thanks. Who knows, it may even help thaw the ice!

5. Remain on a budget



It's very tempting to max out your

credit card especially on a destination honeymoon, but if you are interested in retaining as much hold on your sanity as possible, I would suggest you refrain as much as possible from spending every cent you have got. No matter where you are vacationing, you could have a lot of fun without blowing through your savings. And if you are in a particularly exotic location, make certain to be very watchful of price differences because like it or not, some scrupulous elements may try to inflate prices when they see that you are both tourists.

CONCLUSION

Planning a wedding is never a walk in the park, just ask the friendly, newlywed couple living next door. And if by now you haven't realised that you absolutely *cannot* plan a wedding without help, then you should probably read this book afresh again. Seriously, whether you have a wedding planner to work with, or you choose to plan yourself with the aid of books and stuff, be sure to lean on friends and family whenever you can because you will always need their help.

And most importantly, don't forget to give the groom tasks like being in charge of the drinks because it makes him feel like part of the process and it preserves peace in the long run.

When you have gotten to the end of planning a wedding, make certain to give yourself a pat on the back and also make certain that you enjoy and savour every moment of the wedding.



Thank
You

If you enjoyed this book or received value from it in any way, then I'd like to ask you for a favor: would you be kind enough to leave a review for this book

on Amazon? It'd be greatly appreciated!

**[Click here to leave a review
on Amazon.com.](#)**